

Oroville Redistricting 2021: Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City of Oroville enacting the redistricting process now?

All cities with city council districts must engage in “redistricting” every 10 years following the decennial federal census in order to ensure that all districts continue to have equal populations and follow all state and federal laws. In 2020, the Oroville City Council transitioned to a by-district voting system to elect its City Council Members, replacing its at-large election system. Cities that use by-district voting systems are required to update their adopted district boundaries in conjunction with each decennial Census to ensure that the districts accurately reflect Communities of Interest and population changes.

How can I get involved in the redistricting process?

The redistricting process was designed to be as transparent and accessible as possible. You are invited to attend one or more of the City Council hearings to provide input in person. Please see below for the schedule. You can also provide input by mail or email or by dropping off materials to the City Clerk. Please see below for the contact information.

When and where are the meetings?

The redistricting process timeline is prescribed by the California Elections Code. This requires that Oroville hold at least one public hearing before the Council draws a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries and at least two public hearings after the Council has drawn a draft map or maps of the proposed council boundaries. All public hearing buildings shall be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Date and Time	Event	Location
October 19, 2021 at 5:15pm	Public Workshop 1: Redistricting Training	City Council Chambers
November 18, 2021 at pm	Public Hearing 2: Pre-Draft Community Input	City Council Chambers
November 24, 2021	Post-draft maps online for public comment	
December 15, 2021	Community Workshop	TBD

(time to be announced)		
December 16, 2021 at 6pm	Public Hearing 3: Feedback and Live Mapping	City Council Chambers
January 6, 2022 at 6pm	Public Hearing 4: Feedback	City Council Chambers
January 18, 2022	Public Hearing 5: Feedback	City Council Chambers

What happens at the public hearings?

The first hearing (October 19, 2021) will provide training on the criteria and process for redistricting. At the second hearing (November 18, 2021), the Council will solicit public input on their communities of interest, and the redistricting consulting team will receive direction from the City Council. On November 24, 2021, the draft maps will be posted on the website for feedback and comments. There will be a community workshop (December 15, 2021) to review the maps and solicit feedback. The fourth and fifth hearings (December 16, 2021 and January 6, 2022) are to receive feedback on the draft map.

How are the districts drawn?

Generally, the following criteria are used to redraw the council districts ([California Elections Code. Section 21601](#)):

- Each district should contain nearly the same number of people;
- Boundaries shall be drawn in a manner that complies with the United States Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act;
- Council districts shall consist of contiguous territory in as compact form as practicable;
- Districts shall follow visible features and boundaries when possible;
- Council districts shall respect communities of interest as much as practicable. Communities of Interest generally refers to a contiguous population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation;
- The demographer will disregard the location of incumbents and candidates, as well as the interests of political parties.

In summary, this means the following:

- We will use a mapping program to construct districts after public input has been received.
- Census data will be used to find out how many people live in each part of the city and ensure that each district contains roughly the same number of people.
- Census geography will be used to ensure that the districts are compact and contiguous
- We will collect and utilize Community of Interest data from the residents of Oroville to use in the building of districts.
- We will not use any address information for current council members or potential candidates or use political party affiliation or information in the drawing of districts.

How many people should be in each district?

As counted by the 2020 Census, the City of Oroville had a total population of 20,191. The decennial census is the only survey that counts everyone, so we have to use that data to draw districts. There will be 6 council districts. To figure out the 'ideal population' for each council district, take the total population 20,191 and divide it by the number of districts (6) which equals approximately 3,365 persons.

Do we use the number of voters to draw districts?

Districts are drawn using the total population as counted by the last census. Everyone who was counted, irrespective of age, residency status or other demographics has to be assigned to a district. Districts are not equalized using voters, registered voters or citizens.

What information do you need from me?

One of the criteria to draw maps is called "Communities of Interest" or COI. Because there are no datasets available for Communities of Interest, we appreciate your help to define them for the City of Oroville. A COI is a group of people in a defined geographic location that share a common bond or interest. A Community of Interest is defined as "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of fair and effective representation." Please tell us what defines your Community of Interest, where it is located, and why it should stay together.

Why should I get involved in the redistricting process?

We would like to hear from you so we can make informed decisions about where to draw district lines. Specifically, we need information from you about your neighborhoods and communities of interest. You are the expert who knows your community and neighborhood! If we know the geographic locations of the Communities of Interest in Oroville, we can consider them when drawing lines and we won't inadvertently split them! Keeping communities together in the same district can help to get more responsive representation.

How do I get answers to additional questions?

If you have more questions, we are available to answer them!

- You can attend the community meeting or any of the City council hearings
- Or email your question to: redistricting@cityoforoville.org
- Or mail your question to: City Clerk 1735 Montgomery Street Oroville, CA 95965